



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: April 17th, 2019
Time: 7:15PM
Location: 1st floor conference room
Attendees: Executive committee: Christopher Tonkin (chair), Jack Johnson, Muris Kobaslija, Adam MacNeill, Doug Mayo-Wells, Scott Smith
Town of Arlington: Daniel Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner
APD/COBWEB: Officer Neil Simard
David Creedon, Rod Holland, Stephan Miller

Review/approval of March minutes

- Motion to approve
- Carries, no opposition

COBWEB

Community Safety Day, 28 April, 10am, Bike ride from Mystic St to Skating Rink
Rt 2 underpass - tent population, complicated jurisdictional issue between state and the Town

TAC report - Daniel

New work related to parking on Bartlett Ave (concerns about blocked traffic)
Mass DOT Autonomous Vehicle working group will present proposed locations for testing autonomous vehicles to TAC - some degree of flexibility with restrictions - more at tac next month

Response to bikeway accident/fatality

Ghost bike ceremony - Jack, David attended on 8 April - somber occasion - ghost bike installed opposite Seasons 4

Lexington bike committee meeting - last week - Christopher summarized discussion:
Lexington PD provided some details, although investigation not completed
bike on bike accident - no one unduly passing - handlebars contacted - no mechanical issue, both victims were experienced cyclists

Potential responses proposed include speed limits, public awareness campaign, improved signage (courtesy signs, share-the-path signs, passing guidance signs)
Concerns about e-bikes continue, some pressure to ban Class 3 e-bikes from bikeway
Some concern that a bikeway speed limit in Lexington would not be enforceable by ticketing (not a public right of way)
Overall, a positive, productive discussion about bikeway safety and courtesy

ABAC agrees that signage would help set expectations for safe use of bikeway. Identified safe speed, passing safety, courtesy (including keeping to right), and awareness as potential area of focus
Reviewing other signage in the region, e.g., on Shining Sea bike path, at Fresh Pond
discussion of signs - advocating courtesy

There is a need to collect crash data when motor vehicles are not involved, so data can inform policies - Captain Curran of APD and Corey Rateau are coordinating to see what can be done there.

ABAC reviewed safety guidelines on Minuteman Bikeway web site
<http://minutemanbikeway.org/services/> and agreed they are still relevant, discussed techniques to amplify the message: email, posting promoting at Ecofest, Town Day, Aeronaut beer garden, etc. Maybe videos from Arlington Community Media? (Lexington may be doing some). Offer printable version of guidelines, included when/if bikeway map is reprinted?

Discussed special concerns of children on the path, guidance for parents/pedestrians/cyclists - "Safe routes to school" safety programs are general pedestrian focused vs. bike, some schools have had presentations from Mass Bike, possible to formalize this?

Lexington center has crosswalks painted on stairs up to path, (but signage is easier to maintain than pavement markings)

Bike share updates

Lime rolling out slowly - some concern about slowness of rollout;
need a minimum number of bikes available to be viable

E-bike legislation

Appeared before selectmen in support of pending e-bike legislation
Important mode of bikeway use for diverse users (cargo bikes, riders for whom hills may be challenging)

Ecoweek

May 4th cleanup, coordinating w/ East Arlington Livable Streets coalition
EALS doing greenway & by alewife
ABAC starting from Trader Joes, Mill street intersection, Ed Burns arena at 9:30 Adam, Christopher, Doug M volunteer, with Rod as backup -- coordinating refuse pickup in advance

Access to Bikeway at Ed Burns Arena/Ryder street

Big boulder on arena side to stop people driving through orange barrels and boulder removed in winter to get plows through - Town vehicles need access have observed some parking on bikeway for hockey - monitor but no action at this time

Crossing near Trader Joe's - safety concerns

Nothing new to report

Ecoweek Daniel's bike tour

April 28th 2:30-4:00pm

from Buzzell Field down to rt 2 up greenway to parkway and back down

Co-promoting with Charlotte Milan/ recycling committee for Ecoweek

ABAC action plan

Scheduling working session May 11 9:30-1:30 for developing strategic plan - identify actionable items, next steps

David volunteers to facilitate

Spring bike counts

Tuesday 14th, Saturday 18th

(rain dates 15th, 19th)

Erin Zwirko has lists of previous count volunteers from Nat

Will be installing a permanent bike counter - probably at Swann place as one of 4 new counters installed, maybe w/in 2 months.

Daniel is familiar w/ this specific counter from Greensboro; volume counter, uses both post w/beam to count bike/ped crossing, and inductive loop in ground to identify bikes

Also possible to include a counter at Lake St as part of that project

Cost of the counter is on the order \$4-5K (but pavement install is detail work, could add substantial cost).

Discussion of feasibility of identifying e-bikes in count, but many models are difficult to visually identify.

Updated bikeway map

Tri-town discussing reprinting map new map, but updates required to reflect new routing through Arlington center

Minuteman-only map only serves part of the need, doesn't show other bike routes through town.

Some pressure to adopt GIS, this might make more sense regionally

Arlington-centric map could potentially include local businesses

No budget allocated, might be able to apply art grant, or local business subsidy. (Previous map printings were paid for by Cambridge Savings Bank and DCR).

Daniel will discuss with Alison Carter, Economic Development Coordinator

In addition to printed map, should have some smartphone solution - maybe a map that can be self-printed or loaded onto phone. Could incorporate educational material.

Bike repair station at Thorndike Field - vandalism

Replacement parts have been ordered, should be fulfilled in approx 30 days

Facebook page

Reaction to crash - 3 days of discussion about people going too fast, not very productive

Other matters

Cambridge ordinance - protected bike lanes - impact for Arlington? (topic for strategic planning session)

Sun Jun 9, Bikes not Bombs bike-a-thon, routes from 10 to 100 miles.

-- Motion to adjourn

-- Carries, non opposed